

Library Bond Act Grant Applications - Cycle 1 Individual Application Summary

<i>Project Name [Number]</i>	North Torrance Library & Community Services Center 1017	<i>Current Square Footage</i>	4,200
<i>Applicant</i>	Torrance, City of	<i>Project Square Footage</i>	10,300
<i>Operating Library Jurisdiction</i>	Torrance Public Library	<i>Service Area Population:</i>	32,994
<i>Project Type</i>	New Library	<i>Anticipated Construction Start Date:</i>	9/1/2003
<i>Project Priority</i>	1st	<i>Total Library Project Amount</i>	\$6,025,412
<i>Joint Use Type</i>	Joint Venture	<i>State Grant Amount</i>	\$3,609,943
<i>Multipurpose?</i>	YES		
<i>Leased Site:</i>	NO		

Bond Act Factors [California Code of Regulations Title 5, Section 19998 (a)]

	Rated	Other
<i>Urban/Rural:</i>		[see map]
<i>Population Growth:</i>		12%
<i>Financial capacity of applicant to open and maintain operation of the library (new libraries only):</i>		Yes
<i>Age and Condition of Existing Library:</i>	Poor Condition (= Very Good)	
<i>Inadequacy of the existing library in meeting needs of residents and the response of proposed project to meeting the needs:</i>	Very Good	
<i>Plan of Service integrates appropriate technology:</i>	Very Good	
<i>Appropriateness of Proposed Site:</i>	Outstanding	
Overall Rating:		Very Good

Summary of Review Panel Comments

Population Growth 11.8%

Age and Condition of Existing Facility The existing library was built in 1964 and has not been remodeled. Major deficiencies of the current facility: structurally unsound; over-crowded; inadequate energy efficiency; poor lighting.

Needs of Residents/Response of Proposed Project to Needs The needs assessment included all segments of community and a thorough survey of needs of teachers and students, as well as in-depth study of limitations of school libraries (collections, staffing, technology, budgets). School libraries have no librarians, except the High School. Closest elementary school has no library. No elementary schools provide Internet access and have only one computer available. Collections in libraries are outdated. These conditions create heavy use of branch public library. Students/teachers were surveyed specifically about what should be included in the Homework Center, and the space needs incorporated these elements (larger collections, text books, computers, longer hours of service, subject areas requiring homework help, etc.)

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The plan of service: The preparation for updating the plan of service included appointing committee members who represent stakeholders groups, becoming familiar with the development of a building program document, design workshops, joint venture workshops, PLA, ALA, building design and technology plan workshops. Mission roles, goals, objectives, service indicators are responsive to needs identified. Homework Center was developed based on student/teacher needs survey, and is well planned and pertinent to K-12 needs. It will include subject-specific homework help and supplies, print and electronic resources to curriculum needs, webographies, pathfinders, computer instruction, and school related databases. The youth services librarian will train homework assistants, plan program services in concert with school district, and arrange for school assignment alerts. This Plan of Service is excellent -- a model for addressing K-12 needs. It is thorough, even addressing annual staff development training for youth services librarians.

The building program: The plan of service implies that the Homework Center will be in a separate room. It is actually 8 workstations, designated as a homework center, near the Children's Library. A small study room with seating for 10 is adjacent to it, but no computers are in the room. Two study tables will be in the room, but wiring will allow laptops to be plugged in.

The conceptual plans adequately incorporate the requirements of the building program.

Joint use agreement: Homework Center The agreement does not represent a partnership between the two parties. The school district will provide only assistance in recruiting volunteers to assist with the Homework Center. The sole responsibility for staffing and operation of the joint use services rests upon the library.

Plan of Service Integrates Appropriate Technology The library has a technology plan, which is updated annually. The library provides 24/7 reference service. The new library will be equipped with the latest technology and will include the new technologies such as wireless access, a LAN, digital subscriber line services to broadcast, and interactive video conferencing. They will also be installing a new Web-based automated bibliographic database. K-12 students' technology needs are addressed as a specific part of the technology plan, including Internet access, curriculum related software, etc. The applicant planning team has thought through how technology can be applied to provide library services to the clientele and routinely examines database subscriptions and Web page activity for current relevance.

Appropriateness of Proposed Site This is a multipurpose project, with the library sharing space with a community services center. The site is accessible by automobile, bicycle, foot, and bus, with dial-a-ride and 3 bus stops, used by 2 transit systems, located within blocks of the site. The site is 600' from the current location and is close to schools, recreational facilities, and residential areas.

Financial Capacity The applicant has committed to the on-going operation of the completed library.